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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1.9  
In 3 Hh  
Housekeepers' Chat

Thursday, October 9, 1930.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Wash Day in the Modern Manner." Information from Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. D. A.

Bulletin available: "Methods and Equipment for Home Laundering."

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Let's be very practical this morning, and discuss a very practical subject, in a practical way. Our subject is washing -- laundering, the task which occupies most of Monday morning, in American homes.

Why Monday morning? Because it's a sacred tradition, or something. Last fall I made an auto trip to western Pennsylvania. I every middlesex village and farm, from Washington, D. C., to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, were lines and lines of clothes. If I had just been aroused from a 20 years' sleep, I would have known what day of the week it was.

Do you know where the custom of washing on Monday started? In England, because a large supply of water was delivered to the housekeepers on that day. But why you and I should always wash on Monday, is more than I can see. Maybe Tuesday would be better for some of us. Then on Monday we could mend, put clothes to soak, remove stains, and so on. Or it might be better for some of us to wash on Saturday, when the school children are home to help.

As for me, I dedicate Tuesday to washing. That gives me time on Monday to pick up the Sunday newspapers, put the books away, and otherwise straighten the house.

I generally soak the white clothes over night. This loosens the dirt, saves time, and lessens wear. I cover the clothes with soft, lukewarm, soapy water, and use separate tubs for very dirty and for only slightly soiled clothes. If Billy's overalls are unusually dirty, they are moistened soaped well, rolled up, and placed in a small quantity of water.

Tuesday morning the clothes are removed from the soaking water, and washed by machine, in plenty of hot soapsuds. Delicate fabrics and small articles are tied in net or thin muslin bags, so they will be easier to find in the washing machine. I use lots of water -- soft, when the cistern isn't dry.

When the first suds gets dirty I drain it off and fill the machine with a clean, hot suds. A soap solution, made by dissolving a cake of soap in three quarts of hot water, makes a suds more quickly and cleans more evenly than a bar of soap.





Do you ever use a brush on greasy overalls, and other garments that are very dirty? A smaller brush, not too stiff, helps a lot in cleaning finer fabrics, such as the collars and wristbands of boys' shirts.

After washing, the clothes are wrung as dry as possible, all buttons being folded inside. Ordinarily I wash the clothes through a second suds, and if necessary, I foil the white ones, for five or ten minutes. Longer boiling makes them yellow.

Do you ever, as a last resort, use kerosene or turpentine to clean very dirty garments? One to six tablespoons to a boilerful of water is about the right proportion. Turpentine and kerosene are inflammable, and it takes a long time to rinse the odor out, especially in hard water. I prefer to use the juice of one or two lemons, to a boilerfull of water.

After the clothes are washed and boiled, I rinse them, thoroughly, in plenty of clear, soft, HOT water. COLD rinse water hardens the soap, and makes it difficult to remove. I never add bluing to the rinse water. Soap and washing powder should be removed from clothes before they are placed in a bluing water.

Now shall I tell you what I've learned about bluing, from a laundry specialist in the Bureau of Home Economics? Bluing is used to cover, or neutralize, the yellowish tint in white clothes. It doesn't remove the cause of the yellow tint, but produces a gray color which appears white to us. A fabric which has been properly manufactured, and always properly laundered, doesn't need bluing. Unfortunately, there are few of these fabrics in our households.

A soluble powder bluing should be dissolved in a small quantity of water, then added, drop by drop, to a tubful of clear water. Be sure all particles are dissolved. Sometimes I use ball or block bluing, tied in a cotton flannel bag, and swish it through the tub of cold water until I get the color I want.

It's a good idea to make the bluing water just before using it. If it stands, it is likely to streak the clothes. Test the shade by dipping in a small garment, and holding it to the light, or by holding a little of the water in the hollow of your hand. All bluing water, especially that made with insoluble blues, should be stirred occasionally. Blue only a few pieces together, and never let them soak in the bluing water. The ideal method is to dip them in and out, one at a time. Clothes that have been over-blued may be whitened by pouring boiling water over them, or by a few minutes' boiling.

Is anybody listening, by this time? Yes -- there's a lady over east, and I think there's somebody down south. I'm sure there's someone down south of here. She is making -- what is it, anyway? Apple Butter! I'd like to call on that lady.

Do you know what I'm going to do, as a special reward for you two faithful friends who are still listening, after my long talk? I'll give you a recipe this morning.

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the project. It describes the purpose of the study and the objectives that were set at the beginning.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the methodology used in the study. It includes information about the data collection methods, the sample size, and the statistical tests that were used to analyze the data.

3. The third part of the report is a discussion of the results of the study. It presents the findings of the research and compares them to the previous studies in the field. It also discusses the limitations of the study and the implications of the findings for future research.

4. The fourth part of the report is a conclusion. It summarizes the main findings of the study and provides a final statement about the overall results. It also includes some suggestions for further research that could be done in this area.

5. The fifth part of the report is a list of references. It includes all of the sources that were used in the study, such as books, articles, and websites. This section is important for providing credit to the original authors of the work that was used in the study.

6. The sixth part of the report is an appendix. It contains any additional information that is relevant to the study but that is not included in the main body of the report. This could include raw data, additional statistical analyses, or other supporting materials.

7. The seventh part of the report is a glossary. It defines any technical terms or abbreviations that are used in the report. This is helpful for readers who may not be familiar with the terminology used in the study.

8. The eighth part of the report is a list of figures and tables. It provides a brief description of each figure or table and indicates where it can be found in the report. This section is useful for helping readers locate the specific data that they are interested in.

9. The ninth part of the report is a list of acknowledgments. It is a place where the author can thank the people who helped them with the study, such as their advisor, colleagues, and friends. This is a personal section of the report that is not required, but it is often included.

Would you like a recipe for Ginger Pears? Only four ingredients, for this good-tasting preserve:

8 pounds pears, not too ripe  
4 pounds sugar  
2 lemons, and  
5 or 6 pieces ginger root, 1 to 2 inches long.

Let's repeat the four ingredients, for Ginger Pears: (Repeat).

Wipe the pears, remove the stems, quarter, and core. Cut the pears into small pieces. Add the sugar and the ginger. Let stand overnight. In the morning add the lemons cut in small pieces, rejecting the seeds, and cook until thick. Watch the mixture carefully lest it stick and scorch. Cook down to a rich amber color. Remove the fruit when it becomes clear. Then concentrate the juice. An asbestos mat under the kettle will prevent sticking. When the juice is thick, replace the fruit, heat it thoroughly, pour into hot clean jars, seal and store in a cool place.

Tomorrow we'll have a company menu. Wouldn't the Ginger Pears make a good d  sert, with cream cheese and crackers? Maybe that's what we'll have.

Friday; "Ground Beef in Savory Ways."

